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Drummond

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(54) **ELECTROLYTIC PURIFICATION OF CALCIUM CARBONATE**

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(58) **Field of Search** 205/687, 480, 205/770; 423/431

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides an electrochemical process for reducing metal contaminants in calcium carbonate by solubilizing the metal contaminate in an aqueous solution of calcium carbonate and then removing the solubilized metal contaminant by passing an electrical current through the aqueous calcium carbonate solution containing the solubilized metal contaminant. Calcium carbonate produced according to the process of this invention is particularly suitable for use as food or pharmaceutical additives. The calcium carbonate is also suitable for use in papermaking process as fillers, or coatings, or as additives in the production of plastics, paints and adhesive products. Other uses of high purity calcium carbonate include catalysts and catalyst supports, electrical/semiconductor applications, florescent lighting, and optical/laser applications.

12 Claims, No Drawings